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THE NEW MUTANTS®

KELVIN HOWLAN

PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS.

THE STUDENTS WHO BOARD HERE ARE, INDEED, SPECIAL-- MUTANTS, GIFTED BY BIRTH WITH EXTRAORDINARY POWERS!

BUT THEY'RE STILL KIDS...

IT'S TOO BAD YOU WERE SICK, AMARA! LILA'S PARTY WAS IN-CREDIBLE!

I MEAN SHE ACTUALLY SENT A *ROLLS-ROYCE* TO PICK US UP AND YOU WOULD NOT HAVE *BELIEVED* THAT CLUB!

BALCONIES AND FOOD AND MUSIC...

AND *GUYS! INCREDIBLE* GUYS!

WANNA SEE WHAT YOU MISSED, 'MARA? GO ON, DANI, PULL OUT THE IMAGE OF MY *HEART'S DESIRE!*

ME AND DANI WERE *DANCING* WITH THOSE HUNKS!

IF RAHNE AND DOUG HADN'T INTERFERED, WE'D *STILL* BE DANCING WITH 'EM!

AS IT IS, WE DIDN'T EVEN GET THEIR *PHONE NUMBERS!*

DON'T BLAME THE KIDS! THEY BROKE UP YOUR FUN TA *SAVE* ME! ALIENS DRUGGED ME... *

YOU DRUGGED *YOUR-SELF,* DOPE!

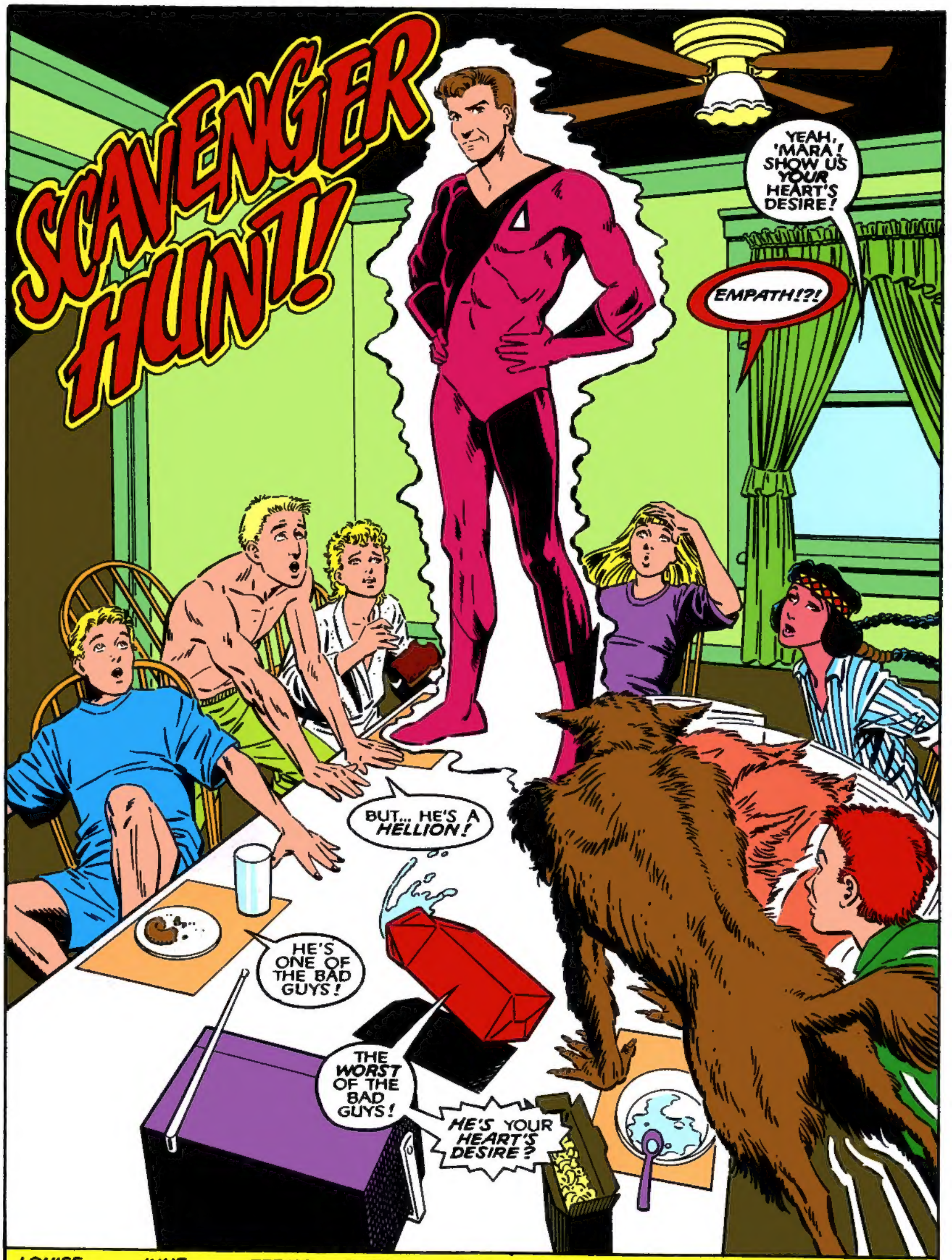
DON'T REMIND ME! AH THINK AH FLEW THROUGH A *BUILDING!* MY *HEAD* FEELS LIKE AH USED IT FOR A *BATTERING RAM!*

*LAST ISSUE. --Ann.

I'M GLAD THEY SAVED YOU, SAM! IT WASN'T *THAT* BIG A SACRIFICE!

THOSE GUYS JUST WEREN'T *THAT* CUTE!

NOT THAT *CUTE?!* LET'S SEE *YOUR* IDEA OF CUTE!


SCAVENGER HUNT!
YEAH, 'MARA'! SHOW US YOUR HEART'S DESIRE!
EMPATH!?!
BUT... HE'S A HELLION!
HE'S ONE OF THE BAD GUYS!
THE WORST OF THE BAD GUYS!
HE'S YOUR HEART'S DESIRE?

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I THOUGHT YOU COULD *CONTROL* YOUR POWER, DANI!

YOU MUST HAVE LATCHED ONTO MY GREATEST *HATE*, BY MISTAKE!

BUT TO PULL IMAGES FROM PEOPLE'S HEADS WITHOUT ASKING FIRST--

--IT... IT'S *HATEFUL!*

BUT... IT WAS ALL IN FUN! I DIDN'T *MEAN*...

WE KNOW, DANI! SHE'S BEEN ACTING ODD EVER SINCE OUR CONFRONTATION WITH THE HELLIONS!*

OR MAYBE 'TWAS THAT LETTER FROM HER FATHER THAT WAS WAITING WHEN WE RETURNED...

*IN *NM* #53-54. --Ann.

WHATEVER IT IS, SHE *STILL* SHOULD *LIGHTEN UP!* WHAT'S HER PROBLEM, ANYWAY?

SHE'S FROM AN ANCIENT *ROMAN-INCA* CULTURE IN THE *AMAZON*, FOR PETE SAKES!

THEY DO THINGS DIFFERENT THERE! IT'S NOT LIKE SHE'S FROM *HERE!*

NEITHER IS *RAHNE!* NEITHER AM *I!* FOR THAT MATTER, NEITHER ARE *YOU!* BUT *WE* DON'T ACT LIKE JERKS!

BUT I *KNOW* WHAT HER PROBLEM IS! *BOYS!* ALL THE GUYS AROUND HERE-- ALL *TWO* OF THEM THAT ARE LEFT*-- ARE BABIES OR TAKEN!

*SUNSPOT AND WARLOCK HAVE JOINED THE FALLEN ANGELS. --Ann.

BABIES!?

SHE'S SO BOY- STARVED, EVEN *VILLAINS* ARE STARTING TO LOOK GOOD TO HER!

I KNOW HOW SHE FEELS! LISTEN, MIDTERMS ARE COMING UP! WHO WANTS TO WORK OUT IN THE DANGER ROOM BEFORE WE HIT THE BOOKS?

AND NOW: THE NEWS FROM SPIDER-HAM...

WHILE IN AMARA'S ROOM ON THE FLOOR ABOVE...

"... I AM GRATEFUL, BELOVED DAUGHTER, FOR THE INFORMATION ON MODERN CIVILIZATION THAT YOU HAVE SENT TO ME IN NOVA ROMA...

"... BUT IT SEEMS YOU HAVE LEARNED ALL THAT IS NECESSARY. IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO RETURN HOME AND MARRY.

"ALREADY YOUR COUSIN MAYA HAS A SON AND SHE IS YOUNGER THAN YOU ARE...

GREAT ZEUS' BEARD, I *AM* HOMESICK HERE... BUT IS *THAT* WHAT I WANT? FORCED BETROTHAL TO SOME LOCAL NOBLE?

NO! NEVER! NO MATTER *WHAT* FATHER THINKS! I DON'T BELONG IN NOVA ROMA ANY MORE...

...AND I DON'T BELONG HERE! I GET SO *LONELY* SOMETIMES!

MY POWER TO TRANSFORM INTO A FIRE-BEING, TO CONTROL HEAT, CALL LAVA FROM THE EARTH--IT FRIGHTENED MY FATHER!

HE PRACTICALLY *FORCED* ME TO COME HERE--USED ME TO LEARN THE WAYS OF THE OTHER WORLD!

MISS FROST'S MASSACHUSETTS ACADEMY-- WHERE THE *HELLIONS* GO-- WITH ITS SERVANTS AND ITS LUXURY, IS MORE LIKE *HOME!*

I FELT... COMFORTABLE THERE!

AND *EMPATH*... HE'S AN *ARISTOCRAT!* LIKE ME, HE TRACES HIS FAMILY'S LINEAGE BACK TO ANCIENT ROME!

I KNOW HE LIKES ME, I CAN TELL BY THE WAY HE LOOKS AT *ME!*

WHUMP!

NO!

MY FRIENDS ARE RIGHT! EMPATH *IS* THE WORST OF THE HELLIONS! HE *USES* PEOPLE! HE IS, INDEED, A *VILLAIN!*

I SHAME MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS BY EVEN CONSIDERING A LIAISON WITH HIM!

NEW YORK CITY.
THE INFAMOUS HELLFIRE CLUB.

...THE CREATURE DUBBED BIRD BOY HAS ESCAPED FROM THE TOWER WHERE HE WAS QUARANTINED, LAST NIGHT, PRIOR TO...

BIRD BOY? I THOUGHT THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE NEWS!

HONESTLY, ROULETTE, WHAT KIND OF NEWS DO YOU EXPECT BETWEEN SATURDAY MORNING CARTOONS?

WINGBOY, FLY HIGH. IS NEWS! TV TELLS! WHY YOU NOT LISTEN?

WHY BOTHER, CATSEYE? TELEVISION TELLS YOU NOTHING!

...THE BIRD-CREATURE WAS FOUND BY SCIENTISTS, STARVING AND HALF-FROZEN ON AN ICE FLOE IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC!

THEY SAY HE'S A MONSTER, OR PERHAPS, LIKE US, HE'S A MUTANT!

YOU'D BE A MONSTER, EMPATH, EVEN IF YOU WEREN'T A MUTANT!

OUR CAMERA CREW, THERE TO COVER LILA'S NEW ALBUM RELEASE...

LILA'S OPENING! WISH WE COULD HAVE ATTENDED!

JETSTREAM, WE'RE LUCKY MISS FROST BROUGHT US TO NEW YORK, 'STEAD OF LEAVING US AT THE MASSACHUSETTS ACADEMY!

WEEKEND OFF FOR GOOD BEHAVIOR, THEN-- FINALS!

I CAN'T BELIEVE LILA REALLY DATES THAT JERK, CANNONBALL!

STILL, THERE'RE GIRLS AT XAVIER'S SCHOOL WHO'RE BETTER LOOKING THAN LILA... AND THEY WOULDN'T GIVE SAM A SECOND LOOK!

THEY, EMPATH? ANY GIRL IN PARTICULAR?

CERTAINLY NOT THAT BLONDE *WITCH*, OR THE *SKINNY* ONE, OR THE *BABY*...

THAT LEAVES THE *STUCK UP* ONE...!

AMARA IS *NOT* STUCK UP, IS SHE, TAROT? SIMPLY AN *ARISTOCRAT*, USED TO THE *FINER* THINGS, AS AM I!

YOU *ADMIRE* HER, DON'T YOU? IN FACT, YOU LOVE HER...

I... I--

QUIT PLAYING WITH HER, EMPATH! BE *QUIET* AND DIG *THIS!*

...FROM THE ROOF, A TELEPHOTO SHOT AS A ROCKET SMASHED THROUGH THE TOWER HOUSING THE BIRD BOY...

THE CREATURE ESCAPED AND HAS BEEN FLYING AROUND MANHATTAN...

THAT'S NO *ROCKET!*

THAT'S *CANNONBALL'S* BLAST! LOOKS LIKE SAM BROKE THE *BIRD BOY* OUT!

HOW *FOOLISH* TO LET HIMSELF BE FILMED! AND THE BIRD BOY *ESCAPED!*

IF THE *MUTIES* WANT THAT CREATURE, THEN *WE* WANT HIM! GET YOUR UNIFORMS ON! WE'VE GOT *WORK* TO DO!

GOOD MORNING, STUDENTS! AND WHERE ARE YOU HURRYING TO?

SHE'S A TELEPATH! SHE'LL *KNOW!*

AH WELL, RUN ALONG! I WAS YOUNG ONCE! DO AS YOU LIKE, BUT KEEP OUT OF TROUBLE!

EMPATH--I'D LIKE A WORD WITH YOU, ABOUT YOUR TENDENCY TO USE YOUR POWER--WITHOUT SUBLETY OR DISCRETION!

HA! NOW YOU'LL CATCH IT!

THAT WILL HAVE TO STOP! THERE IS MORE AT STAKE IN YOUR PROPOSED...SCAVENGER HUNT THAN YOU YET REALIZE!

I HAVE LAID THE BAIT--WHEN THE NEW MUTANTS VISITED OUR SCHOOL... AND MORE RECENTLY, AT THE HELLFIRE CLUB PARTY!*

*IN *NEW MUTANTS* #53 AND 54.

AS AN *EMPATH*, YOU CAN READ THE FEELINGS OF OTHERS AS WELL AS PROJECT YOUR FEELINGS ONTO THEM!

USE *BOTH* GIFTS--WISELY! SPRING THE TRAP! BRING ME THE *PRIZE!*

FAIL ME, EMPATH, AT YOUR *PERIL!* YOU, MORE THAN THE OTHERS KNOW HOW VERY *PAINFUL* SUCH A FAILURE CAN *BE!*

C'MON! GET DRESSED! SOUNDS LIKE YOU BETTER GET THE *BIRD BOY*... OR ELSE!

TAROT, MY DEAR, YOUR INFINITE CAPACITY TO *MISUNDERSTAND* ASTOUNDS EVEN *ME!*

WHILE BACK AT XAVIER'S SCHOOL...

HEY, GUYS, ME, RAHNE AND ILLYANA'RE READY FOR OUR WORK OUT!

WE'RE GOING TO PROGRAM THE *DANGER ROOM* FOR A *STAR WARS* SEQUENCE!

COMPLETE WITH *HAN SOLO* AND *LUKE SKYWALKER* IF I CAN RIG IT RIGHT! WE'LL THROW IN *PRINCESS LEIA* IF YOU'RE INTERESTED!

IT'LL BE *FUN* IF--

HUSH, Y'ALL! *PIPE DOWN!*

...AS THE HUNT FOR THE BIRD BOY CONTINUES. DO NOT PANIC! THE CREATURE IS GENTLE AND RECAPTURE IMMINENT...

SQUAWK! PEEP! SQAWK-AWK!

THE *BIRD BOY*?!?

THE ONE FROM THE *TOWER*? DOUG, CAN YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT HE'S SAYING?

IF IT'S A LANGUAGE, IT'S NOT LIKE ANYTHING I EVER HEARD BEFORE! BUT HE SOUNDS UPSET!

YOU DON'T NEED A MUTANT ABILITY TO DECIPHER LANGAUGES TO KNOW *THAT*, DOUG!

YOU *BET* HE'S UPSET! WE'VE GOTTA GO AFTER HIM! IT'S MY FAULT HE ESCAPED!

TV SHOWED ME *CANNONBALLIN'* THROUGH THAT TOWER! AH SCREWED UP ROYALLY!

POOR BIRD BOY! I'M *GLAD* YOU FREED HIM, SAM, EVEN IF IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!

ONLY... NOW HE'S WANDERING AROUND HUNTED AND AFRAID! HE MAY BE A MUTANT... AND IF HE *IS*...

WE'VE GOTTA *SAVE* HIM!

YOU KNOW WHAT NOT STUDYING'S GONNA DO TO OUR *TEST SCORES!*

FORGET TESTS!

WANNA TELL *MAGNETO?*

NO WAY! IF HE KNOWS WHAT WE'RE UP TO, HE'LL STOP US!

GO! CHANGE! NOW! I'LL TELL AMARA!

C'MON, 'MARA! WE'VE GOTTA GO RESCUE THE BIRD BOY!

BIRD BOY?

LOOK, I'LL EXPLAIN LATER! JUST GET YOUR COSTUME ON... IF YOU'RE FEELING OKAY!

OKAY, YEAH, I'M--

NO! NOT THE *REGULAR* UNIFORM! THE *SPECIAL* ONE YOU USED WHEN WE WENT UP AGAINST THE *HELLIONS!* *

WHY NOT JUST PULL A PICTURE OF IT OUT OF MY HEAD, SO YOU KNOW I UNDER-STAND?

**IN NEW MUTANTS #54.--A.*

USE THE *SPECIAL COSTUMES,* GUYS!

THOSE ARE OUR *GRADUATION COSTUMES,* DANI! IF WE USE THEM ANY OLD TIME--

LOOK, YOU DON'T WANT TO GET THE NEW MUTANTS RECOGNIZED, DO YOU? WHAT IF THEY FILM *US?*

EVERYBODY--MEET ME IN THE *PASTURE* IN TEN MINUTES!

THE *PASTURE...?*

WHILE AT THE HELLFIRE CLUB...

IF HE SEES US AND TELLS MISS FROST, OUR HEADS'LL ROLL!

SO HOW'LL WE GET RID OF *HIM*! HE'LL BE AT THOSE DISHES *FOREVER*!

ROULETTE--?

THOSE JERKS STILL THINK WE HAVE TO SNEAK AROUND. THEY DON'T REALIZE THE WHITE QUEEN KNOWS EVERYTHING.

'SIDES, THIS'LL BE FUN TO WATCH!

YOU GOT IT, *T-BIRD*!

A *BAD LUCK* PSI-DISK'LL PLACE THE ODDS DEFINITELY IN OUR FAVOR!

YE!!!

CRASH!

HOW'D THAT *HAPPEN*... SLIPPERY SPOT?

I KNOW I STACKED THEM PROPERLY... BETTER GET THE BROOM. THEY'LL TAKE IT FROM MY SALARY--!

BINGO!

NOW OUT THE BACK DOOR, OVER THE *FENCE*, AND *AWAY*!

I'VE BEEN *THINKING*, EMPATH! *YOU* MIGHT LIKE THAT STUCK UP *NEW MUTANT*, AMARA...

...BUT THE ONLY WAY SHE'D EVER LIKE YOU IS IF YOU *MADE* HER... LIKE YOU TRIED TO DO TO ME!

AM I, THEN, SO *UNLIKABLE*?

WHAT DO *YOU* THINK?

YOU'RE SURE OF THAT, TAROT, MY DEAR...?

ABSOLUTELY SURE!

AND WHAT WILL YOU *GIVE* ME WHEN I *PROVE* THAT YOU ARE *WRONG*?

I... I WILL GIVE YOU...

EMPATH-- I SAID CUT IT OUT!

TAROT, QUIT BAITING HIM! YOU GOT YOUR *CARDS-- USE* 'EM!

WE NEED *TRANSPOR-TATION!* SOMETHING WITH *WINGS!*

AMONG MANY MORE *GRUESOME* POSSIBILITIES, THE CARDS THROW UP--

--*THE LOVER!*

VI

LOVER

XIX

NO DOUBT, EMPATH, IN YOUR HONOR!

YIIKES!

A MOST *AUSPICIOUS--*

GIANT-WINGBEING COMES FROM NOWHERE!

NOW FLY AWAY?

YOU CAN CONTROL THIS GUY, RIGHT, TAROT?

YEAH, SURE! NO PROBLEM!

THEN LET'S GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD!

MEANWHILE THE NEW MUTANTS GATHER IN THE PASTURE...

OH, HONESTLY, DANI, YOU'RE NOT BRINGING YOUR *HORSE!*

LOOK, 'MARA, THE BIRD BOY CAN *FLY!*

SO CAN *SAM!*

SAM CAN ONLY CARRY *ONE! BRIGHTWIND* CAN CARRY THE *REST* OF US... IF HE HAS TO! WHICH HE *DOES!*

COME ON, ILLYANA! *TELEPORT* US *AWAY!*

MANHATTAN, HERE WE...

...COME!

NO! ILLYANA! WHAT HAVE YOU *DONE?* WHERE *ARE* WE?

THE *WORLD TRADE CENTER!* WHY, AMARA, HEIGHTS *BOTHER* YOU?

WE NEEDED A PLACE TO LOOK AROUND FROM! I FIGURED, LET'S START AT THE *TOP!*

LOOK! FAR OUT OVER THE RIVER!

CAN THAT BE *HIM?*

GOOD EYES, RAHNE! IT MIGHT BE! LET'S CHECK IT OUT!

LOOK HOW HE'S WHEELING AROUND! WHAT'S HE *DOING*?!

SPLOOSH!

Oh, GROSS! LOOK WHAT HE HAS IN HIS *MOUTH*!

A *FISH*!

HE'LL NEVER SWALLOW IT WHOLE! HE'LL *CHOKE*!

WRONG AGAIN! SWALLOWED *AND* DODGED *US* AT THE SAME TIME!

HOW DID THEY EVER *CATCH* HIM TO BEGIN WITH?

THE RADIO SAID HE WAS EXHAUSTED AND NEARLY FROZEN. HE'S BEAUTIFUL-- AND HE'S HORRIBLE!

DANI... CAN HE REALLY BE A MUTANT LIKE US?

NOT MUCH LIKE US!

HE'S AT LEAST *PART* ANIMAL! I CAN ESTABLISH A TENUOUS PSYCHIC RAPPORT WITH HIM...

...BUT I CAN'T COMMUNICATE... AND ALL I *GET* FROM HIM IS HUNGER... AND *FEAR*!

LET'S SEE WHAT *HE* WANTS MOST!

FISH AND WORMS! *BIRD FOOD!?!*

UGH! BUT... HOW CAN HE BE *HUNGRY?* HE JUST *ATE!*

BIRDS HAVE AN INCREDIBLY FAST METABOLISM, DOUG. AND HE SEEMS TO BE A BIG *BIRD*... SORT OF!

HIS THOUGHTS AREN'T HUMAN, THAT'S FOR SURE... BUT THEY'RE NOT LIKE ANY BIRD'S I'VE ENCOUNTERED!

LOOK AT HIM-- REACHING FOR THE FOOD IMAGE... TRYING TO *EAT* IT! HE ACTS *STARVED!* POOR THING, I WONDER...

YO, MUTIES! YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY 'BOUT A BIRD IN THE *HAND?*

HELLIONS!

MAKE YOUR CREATURE *REACH* FOR HIM, TAROT! *GRAB* HIM!

MANUEL! EMPATH!

WHAT'S *THAT* THEY'RE *RIDING?*

ONE OF *TAROT'S* MONSTERS!

SQUAWK-EEE!

HELP!

HANG ON, RAHNE! WE'LL BE DOWN IN A MINUTE!

GREAT IDEA, DANI-- FABULOUS MODE OF TRANSPORTATION! ME AND RAHNE COULD'VE BEEN KILLED!

I'M AFRAID HE'S RIGHT, DANI. MORE THAN A COUPLE OF PEOPLE SIMPLY DON'T FIT!

HA-HA! SO LONG, SUCKERS!

POOR BIRD BOY! FRIGHTENED... CHASED LIKE I ONCE WAS BY MEN WHO THOUGHT ME A WERE-DEMON!

THE HELLIONS WON THE LAST TIME WE SQUARED OFF! THIS TIME WE EVEN THE SCORE!

MORE IMPORTANT, SAM, THE BIRD BOY'S LIFE MAY BE AT STAKE!

HEY, I'VE GOT AN IDEA!

SAM, PUT 'MARA UP BEHIND ME! WE'LL FLY AFTER THE HELLIONS... FIGHT THEM OR AT LEAST DISTRACT THEM!

FAIR ENOUGH! UP YOU GO, 'MARA! WHAT'LL AH DO? ROUND UP THE BIRD BOY?

YEAH, AND I THOUGHT--

NO DEBATE!? WE JUST DO WHAT YOU SAY, WHENEVER YOU SAY... JUST LIKE THAT?

YOU HAVE A BETTER IDEA?

WHAT ABOUT US?

FIGURE A WAY TO LURE THE BIRD BOY!

YEAH! AH'LL DRIVE 'IM BACK HERE, AN' WHEN HE GOES FOR THE LURE, YOU CAN 'PORT HIM BACK TA THE SCHOOL!

LURE HIM? SWELL, WHERE'LL WE FIND HALF A TON OF FISH?

HEY, BRIGHTWIND! YOU DID IT, FELLA! YOU CAUGHT UP WITH THEM!
HE'S DIVING INTO AN ALLEY!
IT'S TOO NARROW FOR BRIGHTWIND'S WINGSPAN! GET HIM *OUT!* QUICK!
JETSTREAM! STOP HIM! *WE'LL* TAKE OUT THE *OTHERS!*
GIVE IT UP, CANNONBALL! YOU CAN'T MATCH MY MANEUVER-ABILITY!
AND LET THE SIX-MILLION DOLLAR CYBORG AT HIM? NOT A CHANCE!
LOOK OVER THERE, EMPATH! YOUR ONE AND ONLY!
KNEW WHAT I WAS DOING WHEN I DREW THE *LOVER* CARD, DIDN'T I?
NEW MUTANTS!
ONLY DANI AND AMARA! THEY MUST'VE DITCHED THE OTHERS!
SO HOW DO WE DITCH *THEM?*
LET'S SEE... *KNIGHT OF SWORDS...* THE *LION* OF STRENGTH... THE *DEVIL...*
TAROT! WHAT'RE YOU *DOING?*
EASY, EMPATH...
I'M THROWING THE *DECK* AT THEM!
NO!

Oh, NO! I CAN'T PROJECT THOSE MONSTERS' GREATEST FEAR 'CAUSE THEY DON'T EXACTLY HAVE *MINDS!*

WHY DO YOU THINK *YOU'RE* THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN EVER DO ANYTHING USEFUL?

YOW! HEY, WATCH IT! YOU'LL BURN BRIGHT-WIND!

ONLY FOR A SECOND! BEATS HAVING HIM RIPPED TO PIECES, DOESN'T IT?

ILLYANA SAID THOSE THINGS ARE FROM THE TAROT CARDS...

... SO LET'S BURN UP THE CARDS!

HEAT BLAST!

YIKES!

IT'S FADING!

WE'RE FALLING!

NO! I DIDN'T THINK--! *DANI!* WE HAVE TO *SAVE--*

ROULETTE, THROW SOME "GOOD LUCK" DISCS AROUND-- *FAST!*

YOU GOT IT, T-BIRD!

WORKED! I *GOT* ONE!

THE *DEVIL!*

STINKS LIKE THE DEVIL, TOO!

A BETTER TRANSPORT FOR *HELLIONS,* ANYWAY!

Oh, NO! ROULETTE! CATSEYE! WHERE ARE YOU?

WHERE ELSE, T-BIRD? WE HAD *LUCK* ON OUR SIDE!

HE'S SAFE... THEY'RE *ALL* SAFE! THANK ZEUS!

WHAT IN HECK DO YOU MUTIES THINK YOU'RE DOING?

SAME THING YOU ARE--*GOIN' HUNTIN'!*

HEY, THERE HE *IS!*

THEY'RE LOSING SPEED!

GIVE IT UP, MUTIES! YOU'LL NEVER CATCH UP!

DANI, WHAT'S WRONG? BRIGHT-WIND CAN GO FASTER THAN THIS! *IS* HE *HURT?* DID I BURN HIM BADLY?

NO, HE'S FINE! *Shhh!* THEY'RE CHASING ONE OF MY *MIRAGES!*

AND WHILE *THEY'RE* CHASING OFF THAT WAY, *WE'LL* FIND SAM! I HOPE HE HASN'T LOST THE BIRD BOY!

"LET'S HOPE RAHNE'S IN WOLF FORM SO I CAN LINK UP WITH HER AND FIND OUT HOW THE OTHERS ARE DOING?"

DANI'S CONTACTED ME THROUGH OUR RAPPORT, GUYS!

TELL HER I 'PORTED IN A LOAD OF FISH FROM A FISHING BOAT!

YOU *STOLE* THEM?

I'M A *DEMON-SORCERESS* IN ANOTHER DIMENSION, RAHNE!

YOU THINK I'D LET A FEW ILLEGAL *FISH* STOP ME?

TELL HER!

"WE'VE GOT THE *BAIT*, DANI. NOW ALL WE NEED IS THE BIRD BOY!"

THERE HE *IS*, DANI! *JETSTREAM'S* CLOSING ON HIM!

NO WAY, 'MARA! LOOK AT SAM GO!

WAHOOO!

C'MON, BRIGHTWIND! IT'S *ROUND UP* TIME!

SQUAWK-AWK!

HAVING FUN, COWGIRLS?

GOOD *ILLUSION*, DANI! ONLY... AFTER A WHILE IT FADED!

WE WON'T SETTLE FOR LESS THAN THE REAL THING!

GO, BRIGHT-WIND! *BLOCK* THEM!

SLASH!

BRIGHT-WIND! NO!

DANI!

SQUEE

KRAK

ENOUGH, HELLIONS! IF WE CAN'T HAVE HIM--

--NEITHER CAN YOU!

Oh, NO! NOT--

--AGAIN!

DANI!

THUD

LEAVE HER *ALONE*, HELLION! LEAVE HER ALONE, OR I *FRY* YOU!

SHE'S *CRAZY!* EMPATH, *POSSESS* HER!

NOW, IT'S OKAY? ALL RIGHT, THEN!

AMARA... YOU DON'T WANT TO HURT ME! YOU *LOVE* ME...

LOVE YOU... YES... I *DO* LOVE YOU...

... BUT YOU ARE A VILLAIN... YOU USE PEOPLE... I... I CANNOT... *CANNOT* LOVE YOU...

WHAT?!

POOR KID!

SO THAT'S IT!

I *WON'T* OBEY YOU! AND I WON'T BETRAY *DANI*-- EVEN AFTER WHAT SHE *DID* TO ME!

I WON'T *BETRAY* THAT *BIRD CREATURE!*

NOT EVEN FOR *YOU!*

AMARA, STOP!

FREE DANI! FREE HER... PLEASE!

YOU DON'T NEED TO *DO* THIS, MANUEL! I DON'T WANT TO *HURT* YOU!

WE DON'T WANT TO HURT EACH OTHER--*NONE* OF US...

DO WE?

JAMES! YOU *CARE* FOR THE GIRL...*VERY MUCH!* WHY DO YOU WANT TO *HURT* HER?

NEVER MEANT... TO HURT HER! WORRIED... THAT'S ALL!

THEN... RELEASE HER!

EMPATH! MANUEL! THANK YOU! MAYBE... MAYBE WE MISJUDGED YOU! *I*... MISJUDGED YOU!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! THE COLD *EMPATH* HAS A *HUMAN* WEAKNESS! AND HE HAS LOST THE BATTLE FOR US!

IDIOT! DON'T YOU *UNDERSTAND* WHAT WAS AT STAKE? *REMEMBER* WHAT MISS FROST SAID? REMEMBER OUR *WAGER?*

SUBTLETY, TAROT! YOU LACK SUBTLETY.

I HAVE *WON*, AS YOU WILL SEE! WITHOUT FORCING HER... *BECAUSE* I DIDN'T FORCE HER!

AND NOW... TAROT, LOVE, *ABOUT* THAT WAGER--WHEN YOU *SEE* HOW I HAVE WON... WHAT WILL YOU *GIVE* ME...?

GOSH, WHAT HAPPENED? *EMPATH*-- DID YOU--?

I DID... NOTHING! WE'RE BACK WHERE WE CAME FROM, THAT'S ALL...

... EXCEPT FOR THE STINKING LOAD OF *FISH* BROUGHT US BY OUR RIVALS!

DANI!

I FELT OUR *RAPPORT* BREAK OFF!

I WANTED TO COME BUT ILLYANA WAS AWAY GETTING MORE FISH AND WE HAD TO WAIT TILL SHE GOT BACK AND...

RAHNE! COOL IT! I'M OKAY, FUZZY-WUZZY! JUST... BUMPED MY HEAD!

YOU LOST THE BIRD BOY JUST LIKE *WE* DID!

SO WE *HELLIONS* ARE STILL AHEAD ONE GAME-- SINCE THIS ONE'S A DRAW!

HIS LIFE-- IT'S JUST A *GAME* TO YOU?

WE *HAVEN'T* LOST, THUNDERBIRD!

YOU EVER HEAR THE OLD BASEBALL SAYING-- "*IT AIN'T OVER TILL IT'S OVER*"?

BUMP!

YEII!

GOTCHA!

SKREE-KAWK!

BULLS-EYE!

SPLOOSH!

SEE YA *AROUND*, HELLIONS! IT'S BEEN *REAL*!

HOME, SWEET HOME!

GROSS! NEVER HAS OUR DANGER ROOM SMELLED MORE DISGUSTING!

SQUAWK-AWK!

HE'S STRONGER'N HE LOOKS! DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER AH CAN HOLD 'IM!

ILLYANA! 'PORT UP TO THE CONTROL ROOM-- FAST!

SPLOOSH!

RUN THROUGH OUR ARTIFICIAL ENVIRONMENTS TILL YOU FIND ONE THAT CALMS HIM DOWN!

AWRIGHT!

JUNGLE!

SQUAWK-AWK!

HATES IT! DOUG, CAN'T YOU TALK TO HIM?

TALK? I CAN'T EVEN UNDERSTAND HIM! HE SEEMS MORE ALIEN THAN WARLOCK! AND HE'S FROM OUTER SPACE!

SO LET'S TRY AN ALIEN CITY?

SQUAWK!

NO GOOD!

MOUNTAINS?

SQUEEEK-AW!

THE RADIO SAID THEY FOUND HIM IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC! HOW ABOUT A DESERT ISLAND?

NOT THE NORTH ATLANTIC, BUT AS LONG AS HE'S HAPPY...!

I THINK HE'S HAPPY WHEREVER THERE'S FOOD!

YEAH!

LISTEN, 'MARA, I'M SORRY I PULLED EMPATH OUT OF YOUR HEAD EARLIER!

IT WAS MY MISTAKE! THE WAY YOU HANDLED THOSE HELLIONS, NONE OF THEM COULD BE YOUR HEART'S DESIRE!

PERHAPS NOT! BUT I HAVE TO LEARN THAT FOR MYSELF!

THAT IS WHY I AM GOING TO TRANSFER TO THE MASSACHUSETTS ACADEMY!

NEXT: WHO OR WHAT IS THE BIRD BOY?

BIRDS of a FEATHER!

COME FLY WITH US!

BULLPEN BULLETINS

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Mind your manners with him — because the last time he was here, he kidnaped the mansion!" —Magik

NEW MUTANTS ANNUAL #3

Pro File on: LARRY HAMA

Editor on: *SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN, CONAN, KING CONAN, THE NAM, MERC, SEMPER FI and STEEL TOWN ROCKERS*
Marvel freelance credits (past): *Scripts: CONAN, DAREDEVIL, BIZARRE ADVENTURES & STAR WARS. Pencils: IRON FIST, MAN-THING, JOHN CARTER, DAREDEVIL, BIZARRE ADVENTURES, CRAZY, MOON KNIGHT, KA-ZAR, G.I. JOE & various movie adaptations. Inks: various CRUSTY BUNKER jobs.*
Marvel freelance credits (present): *Scripts: G.I. JOE, G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS, WOLF PACK, NTH MAN*
My hobbies are: *Playing guitar for Rock & Roll band (K-Otics), shooting big-bore handguns, driving fast cars, building models, martial arts and type VII U-Boats.*
The single work which I am most proud of is: *G.I. JOE*
My pet peeves are: *All fanzine writers over the age of fifteen. Tell me, does a sane person who wants to write for adults, choose comics as his or her medium? Give me a break!*
My place of birth is: *New York City*
My greatest accomplishment outside the comics field is: *Being a bad guy on M*A*S*H.*
My oddest habit is: *They're all odd!*
If they were making a movie of my life, I'd like to see my part played by: *Me.*
The reason I got into comics was: *Didn't know how to do anything else.*
People who knew me in High School thought I was: *Going to die young.*
My favorite performers are: *Howling Wolf, Bo Diddly, Magic Sam and Pete Townshend.*
The last good book I read was: FLIGHT OF THE INTRUDER
The last good movie I saw was: *DAS BOOT.*
The biggest influence on my work include: *Wally Wood, Neal Adams, Ralph Reese, Borges, Donald Barthelme, Charles Dickens, Ed McBain, Bullwinkle Moose, Chuck McCann, Gahan Wilson, Harvey Kurtzman, Milt Caniff, Ryunosuke Akutagawa, and Carl Barks!*
My greatest unfulfilled ambition in the comics field is: *To write UNCLE SCROOGE!*
The worst part of my job is: *Lunch.*
When nobody's looking I like to: *Sleep.*
The one thing I really want the world to know about me is: *As little as possible.*

ITEM: Try as you might, you can't escape the basic truth that Marvel comics are indelibly embroidered into the very fabric of American popular culture. References to and images from the mighty Marvel mythos pop up almost everywhere you look, especially in other media like movies and television. (And now that Marvel is owned by New World Pictures — look out!) In this past television season, a number of I.M.I.'s (Identified Marvel Images) were sighted and reported to us. On *Perfect Strangers*, Balkie wore Spider-Man pajamas in one episode. On *Kate and Allie*, a boy was spotted with a Thor t-shirt. On *The Tortellis*, the youngest son was wearing Captain America underoos. Our favorite I.M.I. occurred in a recent *Amazing Stories* episode entitled "Moving Day" where not only was an X-Factor poster prominently on display, but the youth who had learned he was an alien also held up a copy of IRON MAN #211 and tried to make like the Living Laser! (Of course, Steven Spielberg productions have been noted for flashing Marvel comics on the big screen, like the copy of CAPTAIN AMERICA on display in *Poltergeist* and the MARVEL UNIVERSE in *Explorers*!) Media-watchers, please send us any I.M.I.'s you spot, and we'll run them here in future Bullpen Bulletins!
ITEM: *Shortly before AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #21 went to press, we learned of the sad and untimely death of fashion designer* Willi Smith. *Willi, who created inexpensive sportswear under the* WilliWear *label, designed* Mary Jane Watson's *wedding gown for her marriage to* Spider-Man *in the annual. We are grieved at the loss of such a gifted young artist.*

CHECKLIST

- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #247**—The Black Widow returns!
- ☐ **NEW MUTANTS #56**
- ☐ **STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #11**
- ☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #31**—It begins here! A six-part epic that continues through *all three Spider-Man titles!* Each issue is written by J. MARC DeMATTEIS, penciled by MIKE ZECK and inked by BOB McLEOD! And the *villain* of this Marvel masterpiece is—!
- ☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS #25**—Vs. the Abomination!
- ☐ **MARVEL AGE ANNUAL #3**—You're just in time for "The Fred Hembeck Show!" Meet the Marvel superstars with Fred! See previews of what's coming up in their own titles! And those pages were specially drawn by each hero's regular team! Wow!
- ☐ **G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS #7**
- ☐ **AVENGERS ANNUAL #16**—The conclusion to the battle begun last month in *West Coast Avengers Annual #2*. Everybody's here! Don't miss out!
- ☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #51**
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #293**—Say, who is the villain of this epic confrontation, anyway?
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #334**—The *new* Captain America undergoes training — with the Taskmaster!
- ☐ **FALLEN ANGELS (Limited Series) #7**
- ☐ **PUNISHER #3**—Nothing *ever* happens in Kansas!
- ☐ **STRANGE TALES #7**—Featuring Dr. Strange and Cloak & Dagger — in the same story!
- ☐ **POWER PACK #32**
- ☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #3**—A special issue featuring pinups, pinups and *more* pinups!
- ☐ **X-FACTOR ANNUAL #2**—Showdown with Quicksilver! Guest-starring the Inhumans and Power Pack!
- ☐ **AVENGERS #284**
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #336**—A major event, guest-starring X-Factor!
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #204**—Reprinting *Marvel Team-Up #68*, by CHRIS CLAREMONT and JOHN BYRNE.
- ☐ **SILVER SURFER #4**—Mantis is back!
- ☐ **X-MEN #222**
- ☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #199**—With Red Sonja!
- ☐ **G.I. JOE #64**
- ☐ **MARVEL SAGA #23**—Featuring the FF's first meeting with the Inhumans!
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #307**—The *new* FF team springs into action!
- ☐ **IRON MAN #223**
- ☐ **THE 'NAM #11**—Torn from yesterday's headlines — Francis Cardinal Spellman delivers a speech that has a profound effect on the war.
- ☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #131**—The villain is Kraven the Hunter and the story continues in next month's Spider-titles!
- ☐ **THOR #384**—The year is 2587! So where's Thor?
- ☐ **X-FACTOR #21**
- ☐ **CLASSIC X-MEN #14**—Reprinting *X-Men #107* by CHRIS CLAREMONT and DAVE COCKRUM! Plus a new story!
- ☐ **TRANSFORMERS #33**
- ☐ **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #18**—The roll call of dead Marvel characters continues in this Deluxe Edition.
- ☐ **G.I. JOE DIGEST #6**—Reprinting *G.I. Joe #15–17*.
- ☐ **AVENGERS INDEX #3**—The definitive source of information for *Avengers #46–66*.

The Fall of the Mutants

Syl3nt Bob